CLAIMS

1. A stylus tip for a workpiece contacting probe, comprising a self-lubricating or low friction material.

2. A stylus tip according to claim 1, wherein the material is a composite comprising a low friction material or solid state lubricant, incorporated into a dimensionally stable microstructure.

3. A stylus tip according to claim 2, wherein the solid state lubricant is graphite or a graphite-like material.

4. A stylus tip according to claim 3, wherein the solid state lubricant is hexagonal boron nitride.

5. A stylus tip according to claim 4, wherein the dimensionally stable microstructure comprises silicon nitride.

6. A stylus tip according to claim 5, wherein the ratio of boron nitride to silicon nitride is less than 20%, preferably 5% - 15%.

7. A stylus tip according to claim 1 or claim 2, comprising polytetrafluoroethylene impregnated in a matrix material.

8. A stylus tip according to claim 1, comprising boron carbide annealed to produce a solid lubricant film on its surface.

9. A stylus tip according to claim 1 or claim 8,

wherein the self-lubricating material or film is self-replenishing.

10. A stylus tip according to any one of the preceding claims, comprising a substrate and a coating over said substrate, the coating comprising said self-lubricating or low friction material.

11. A stylus for a workpiece contacting probe having a stylus tip according to any one of the preceding claims.

12. A workpiece contacting probe having a stylus according to claim 11.